**Directions:** Review the content below and answer the questions that follow

**The Power of Fun**

     The minute school is out in June, teenagers can be seen wandering around the community. Beginning at noon on any given day, teens can be found in mini-marts, shopping malls, and just walking around. If one looks at the faces of these teens, it becomes clear that most of them are bored. As a result, many teens are thirsty for excitement, which causes them to make poor choices. Some join gangs, say yes to drugs, and commit crimes. This could be prevented if free and safe activities were available for teens during the summer.

     In many communities, teen programs are available. Parks and recreation facilities have expanded their programs and created some that focus on teens’ interests. For example, Cable Oaks Park and Recreation has a new program in which teens can create their own video productions. These lucky teenagers journey to fun places such as the lake or the river to film a movie. Experienced counselors train the teens to pick the right setting, actors, and scripts. At the end of the video session, all of the teens meet to view each others’ productions. A few of last year’s videos were so good that they were shown on the local TV station.

     Since many teens enjoy sports programs, why aren’t there enough programs to accommodate the teens who have nothing to do? Other teens have vivid interests in music. Only one summer program focuses on music, and it is extremely expensive. What about the teens who dream of becoming our future artists and dancers? What happened to all of the programs available for them? I guess they are going to have to express their talents dancing in the streets and painting graffiti on walls.

     Something needs to be done to address the problems that come from having teens with too much time on their hands. I say, ask taxpayers to put some money into summer programs that will help teens and the entire community.

1.

How does the author organize her thoughts?

1. by explaining the solution and then the problem
2. by comparing and contrasting solutions
3. by describing solutions in order of importance
4. by stating her proposition and following it with support

2.

How does the author support the idea that teen programs are a solution?

1. by describing various sports programs that should be offered
2. by discussing the value of dance, music, and art
3. by explaining why programs need to be created
4. by providing an example of a program that is working

3.

Which statement BEST summarizes the ideas in paragraph 1?

1. When teens are given too much time to do nothing, the chance that they will make poor decisions increases.
2. It is easy to get bored during summer because school is out and there are no homework assignments.
3. All teens who have nothing to do during summer months end up making horrible decisions.
4. The owners of mini-marts report that many teenagers like to spend their spare time in stores.

4.

Which statement BEST summarizes the main idea of the article?

1. Staying in shape during the summer months is difficult for teens, so more activities are needed for them.
2. The best activity for teens during the summer months is one in which they can produce their own video shows.
3. Providing fun activities for teens during the summer months will be of value to both the teens and the community.
4. Teens who end up participating in gangs are the ones who like to dance in the street and paint on walls.

**Directions:** Review the content below and answer the questions that follow

**Help for All**

     There are many animals that get dropped off at our school in hopes that students will take them home to make them pets. This is a huge problem because many of these poor animals are not taken home and are left to suffer or even die. Something needs to be done to help them.

     The wood shop and the science departments need to join forces to help with this problem. Students could build cages large enough to house these poor kittens and dogs. Then, they could be kept in the science classrooms where students can learn to take care of these poor animals. Then, during P.E., students can walk the dogs or even play Frisbee with them for exercise. There is a solution to this huge problem.

5.

How does the author of “Help for All” support the passage’s proposition**?**

1. by giving directions on how to build cages for the stray animals
2. by explaining the cause of all the strays wandering on the campus
3. by stating ways that different classes could help themselves and the animals
4. by appealing to the emotions of the readers by saying that the animals could die

6.

Which statement BEST summarizes paragraph 2 in “Help for All”?

1. It would be fun and really good exercise to run and play catch with a Frisbee with the stray dogs.
2. There are many reasons why so many stray dogs and cats end up wandering around the school suffering.
3. The wood shop department could teach its students how to build cages that would make all the stray animals happier.
4. The departments at the school could work together to help stray animals while providing learning activities for the students.

**Directions:** Review the content below and answer the questions that follow

**Bring Back the Band!**

    Don’t you think it’s time to start a band at school? Of course it is! It could be a rock band or even a classical music wind ensemble. Any kind of musical band would work at school. Why? Well, for one thing, there isn’t anyone I know who doesn’t enjoy music. Music is a part of our lives, even if we aren’t huge fans of music. Music is in every movie or television show we watch–it’s used in many stores; even supermarkets play music as background noise for shoppers. Since music is everywhere, why shouldn’t students play music in our school? There are a lot of benefits to students for learning an instrument or even being trained to sing as part of a school chorus. And if there are many benefits for students, of course there are going to be great benefits for the teachers who instruct them as well!

    Many studies show that students who play a musical instrument do better in school, especially in subjects like math, reading, and foreign languages. A California student named Taylor, whom I read about, started to play the piano when he was seven years old. He said that playing music shaped who he is. Taylor said that learning to play the piano taught him to be logical in his thinking, so that learning difficult subjects like algebra and learning languages like Russian have been “a cinch!” Taylor said that it’s not just playing the piano that helped him. Because he practiced for several hours a day and attended school, he had to be organized and find a good balance between music and school. He also learned how to keep at something that is difficult. He said that having to repeat playing one piece of music over and over again to get it right made repeating math problems less frustrating.

    Some studies have concluded that just listening to music is helpful for students. But later research has found that this is not entirely true. Students have to actively participate in music for it to help them succeed in school. Researchers have found that playing music or singing changes how the brain works. That’s what helps students do better in other subjects–it keeps the mind fit.

    Even if some kids would rather not play an instrument, learning how to sing in a choir can be just as good for their school work. A group called Chorus America did a study and found that kids who sing in a choir or chorus get better grades than kids who don’t. The study also asked parents and teachers of students who sing in choirs whether those students were performing better at school. Parents and teachers overwhelmingly agreed that this was the case.

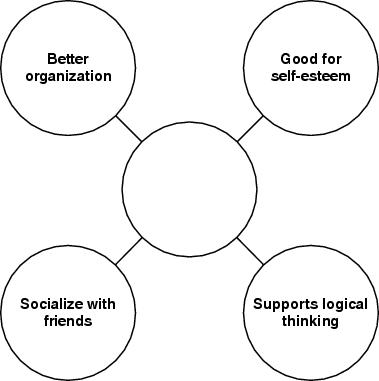
    Just as Taylor said, it’s not just playing an instrument that makes kids better students. They have to be better organized so that they make time for practice as well as for all their other activities and commitments. Having good organizational skills is really important for us students. This is a skill that students will continue to need as they grow into adults. Learning an instrument is also good discipline, because to improve, students have to keep practicing. Repeating the same phrase over and over again also teaches perseverance. Students learn not give up when something is hard! And let’s not overlook the social benefits of doing something as a group. I think it’s nice to have friends who are doing the same thing we are. It’s great for our self-esteem. And of course the best reason for bringing back bands to school is this: Playing music is not only good for your grades . . . it’s also really fun! So who wants to join me in making our dreams of a band a reality at our school?

7.

Which statement BEST represents the main thesis?

1. Music helps students stay organized.
2. Students benefit from music programs.
3. Music is involved in all parts of our lives.
4. Teachers should support a music program.

8.



Which information should be placed in the middle circle?

1. Reasons to support fun activities
2. Why learning languages is better
3. Reasons people like to listen to music
4. Why there should be music in school

9.

Which BEST describes the structure of this passage?

1. The author identified a problem and offered a solution.
2. The author listed tasks or events in chronological order.
3. The author compared and contrasted different points of view.
4. The author identified a proposition and then supported it with evidence.

10.

Who is the MOST LIKELY audience for this speech?

1. students at the school
2. the principal of the school
3. teachers who work at the school
4. parents who volunteer at the school

11.

Why did the speaker MOST LIKELY give this speech?

1. to persuade listeners to start a band at school
2. to entertain listeners with stories about being in a band
3. to inform listeners about an article he had read
4. to describe to listeners a study about kids who sing in choirs

12.

Which statement would *not* an example of plagiarism?

1. In one study, 28% of students found listening to music is helpful.
2. 28% of studies reported that students listening to music may support the notion of increased academic standings.
3. According to Richards and Freeman’s findings, 28% of studies reported that students listening to music may support the notion of increased academic standings (Music and Academic Findings, pg21).
4. Students listening to music support the notion of increased academic standings.

**Stop! You have finished this exam**